Quranic Passage 11

Surah Al-Baqarah

verse no 30 to 37

Translation

30. Behold, your Lord said to the angels: 'I will create a vicegerent on earth.' They said: 'Will You place there one who will make mischief there and shed blood?- whilst we celebrate your praises and glorify your holy (name)?' He said: 'I know what you do not know.' 31. And He taught Adam the names of all things; then He placed them before the angels, and said: 'Tell me the names of these if you are right.' 32. They said: 'Glory to You, of knowledge we have none, save what You have taught us: In truth it is You who are perfect in knowledge and wisdom.' 33. He said: 'Adam! Tell them their names.' When he had told them, Allah said: 'Did I not tell you that I know the secrets of heaven and earth, and I know what you reveal and what you conceal?' 34. And behold, We said to the angels: 'Bow down to Adam'. And they bowed down. Not so Iblis: he refused and was haughty: he was of those who reject faith. 35. We said: 'Adam! You and your wife dwell in the Garden; and eat of the bountiful things in it as You wish. But do not approach this tree, or you will run into harm and transgression.' 36. Then Satan made them slip from there, and got them out of what they had been in. We said: 'Go down, with enmity between yourselves. On earth will be your dwelling-place and your means of livelihood, for a time.' 37. Then Adam learnt from his Lord words of inspiration, and his Lord turned towards him; for He is often-returning, most merciful.

Main Theme (Points)

- Allah's relation with Adam as the first human being and vicegerent on the Earth who is also the first prophet of Allah.
- Creation of Adam with an ordinary element then elevation to the status of vicegerent on the Earth because of superior knowledge gifted to him by Allah. It shows Allah's special love for Adam.(and humans)
- Angel's question (Not objection) about the eligibility of Adam for this high post which has great responsibility. Human's free will may lead him to bloodshed and mischief making. In reply Allah referred to His attribute of being Omniscient. (All knowing). Angels were not aware of the secrets of ALLAH's plan.
- Practical demonstration of Adam's knowledge in front of Angels by his knowledge of laws of nature and properties and proportion of elements of this universe about which angels had no idea. (ALLAH's support for Adam)

Main Theme (Points)

- Allah's order for angels to show respect to Adam and acknowledge his status. Iblis who was one of the high status jinn and had a free will like humans denied to respect Adam and accept him vicegerent due to the elements of jealousy and arrogance. (*Iblis claimed that he is superior by creation because he is created from fire while Adam is created from an inferior element dust.)*
- Adam and his wife Eve's free will was tested in Heaven by a forbidden fruit (Accountability of actions).Iblis slipped them from the right path *as he had earlier promised to mislead them. (Iblis' enmity for Adam and his generations).*

  "for Satan is an avowed enemy to man" (12:5, Yusuf).
- Exile of Adam, Eve and Iblis from the heavens. They were sent to the Earth. (Displeasure and Punishment of ALLAH)
- Adam's realization of his mistake (Self Reflection), repentance for long time and ALLAH's forgiveness for Adam after being teaching special words of repentance. (Adam's turning towards Allah. Allah's guidance and forgiveness) "if *anyone does evil, or wrongs his own soul but afterwards seek God's forgiveness. He will find God Oft-forgiving and most Merciful" (4:110, Al-Nisa)*

Importance for today's Muslims (Points)

- Muslims must believe in all prophets including Adam and respect all of them.
- They must believe that Humans are superior creation of ALLAH who are created on the best pattern of creation. They are not created from Apes or Chimpanzees as Darwin's theory of evolution believes.
- They must understand the importance of their status as vicegerent and responsibilities of this post. They must work for the well being of all humans and other creations of ALLAH on Earth. They must protect and preserve the environment of this planet for other species and coming generations of humans. They must maintain peace and harmony on the Earth.
- Must be careful of Iblis' temptations and must differentiate between right and wrong. They must seek ALLAH's help, protection and guidance against Iblis.

Importance for today's Muslims (Points)

- Muslims must have self reflection of their mistakes and negligence. After realization of mistakes they must repent from ALLAH with sincerity because ALLAH is Often Forgiving.
- Must seek knowledge, wisdom and guidance from ALLAH as prophets did.
- Muslims must never be proud of their knowledge or deeds instead they should always be thankful to ALLAH for His blessings and follow all His commands.

- This passage teaches Muslims to believe in attributes of ALLAH being Omnipotent, Omniscient and Forgiving.
- Muslims must consider this world a temporary abode set for their test of free will. They are accountable in front of ALLAH for their deeds and will be judged accordingly in hereafter.

Main theme (Brief Sample)

Theme of the passage is God's messengers. It describes the story of creations of Adam and his especially elevated status granted by God's decree. This superiority of Adam was duly acknowledged by all angels except Iblis who showed arrogance (since he was a Jinn, not an angel). Adam and Eve were granted paradise but Iblis maneuvered their exile from there, out of jealousy and malice. On repentance on their mistake Adam and Eve were pardoned by God who awarded them a new phase of worldly living. The Quran mentions this phase at another place as: "it is We, Who have placed you with authority on earth" (7:10).

Importance of the theme (Brief Sample)

Theme of this passage contains important lessons for Muslims. They are told the reason for making human being superior over all other creatures. God appointed man (byway of Adam) as his vicegerent on earth because of the knowledge and free will. The free will is a test for humans as they can be enticed by Satan to commit sins. The Quran warns about this by saying: *"for Satan is an avowed enemy to man" (12:5, Yusuf).* The passage further tells about God's mercy and forgiveness as he accepted repentance by Adam. The Quran reminds Muslims repeatedly of this attribute of God: "if *anyone does evil, or wrongs his own soul but afterwards seek God's forgiveness. He will find God Oft-forgiving and most Merciful" (4:110, Al-Nisa)*

Further Explanation (For Self Study)

- Allah is the Eternal, the Absolute, One and Unique. He is the Sole Creator, the Sustainer and Planner of this immeasurably vast universe in which angels regularly celebrate His praises and glorify His name.

- Allah has created Man and appointed him as His vicegerent and Messenger in-spite of the apprehensions expressed by Angels that Man would indulge in mischief and blood-shed.

- The claim of the atheists that man is created out of nothing or that he is his own creator and master or he is an evolutionary form of apes is baseless beyond any shadow of doubt.

"Were they created of nothing or were they themselves creators? Or did they create the heavens and the earth? No, they have no firm belief." (52:35-6)

"Say: Behold all that is in the heavens and on earth but neither signs nor warners benefit those who believe not." (10:101)

- Man is Allah's best creation as he alone has been blessed with the knowledge power, faculty and wisdom to explore and understand the mysteries and intricacies of the universe. It is evident from the fact that when confronted, the angels could not give the names of the things while Adam did it quite easily and spontaneously because he had been taught so by the Supreme Lord.

- It is through knowledge that we can understand Allah better and serve Him better. The very first verse revealed to the Holy Prophet (PBUH) in the cave of Hira amplifies beyond doubt the significance, importance and place of knowledge in Islam:

"Read! In the name of your Lord who has created (all that exists). He has created man from a clot (a piece of thick coagulated blood). Read! And your Lord is Most Bountiful, who has taught by the pen. He has taught man that which he knew not." (96:1-5)

- Allah commands the Holy Prophet (PBUH) to invoke Him to advance in knowledge:

"Say: O my Lord! Increase me in knowledge." (20:114) The Holy Prophet (PBUH) reiterated it as under:

"Allah makes the way to Paradise easy for him who treads the path in search of knowledge."(Muslim).

- Salvation lies in carrying out the commandments of Allah, All Mighty, and not in defiance and arrogance. Unlike all others who prostrated before the Creator without a moment's hesitation or resistance, Iblis was condemned because he argued, defied and chose not to do so.

- Man's original abode was Paradise in which he could have lived and enjoyed life for ever un-interruptedly if Adam and Eve had not committed the blunder of eating from the forbidden tree. As they inadvertently violated on the prompting and persuasion of Satan the commandment of Allah, they were expelled from there and were told to dwell on earth where they would find all provisions.

- Hazrat Adam instantly realized what a grave blunder they both had committed. He, therefore, repented and apologized in the manner Allah had ordained him to do. Man's Creator who, no doubt, is most Merciful, Gracious and Oft Forgiving accepted the plea of Adam and cleared him of the original sin. It shows that Allah forgives the sins of His servants as and when they offer sincere, but un- conditional repentance.

- One of the most common frailties or characteristic of human nature is its inability to resist lust. Hazrat Adam and Hazrat Eve were told not to go near a particular tree but Satan whispered to them that they were forbidden to go near the said tree because if they tasted it they will either become angles or live for ever. It was, therefore, the desire to become angels or immortals that impelled them to do what they were forbidden to do. Allah Almighty let them know through practical demonstration that inability to resist lust was one of those weaknesses of human beings that could always be easily exploited by Satan and that the fear of Allah coupled with His guidance could be the only way to save themselves from such exploitation.

- As man has been blessed with the rare faculty of making a choice between good and evil, it is he alone who has to decide whether to tread the path of Allah which leads to Paradise or side with Satan who surely would beguile him to destruction.

THANK YOU.....